

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Is it the position that the Government are not making enquiries in important matters like the Tenancy question of India. Am I to take it that Government have no information or that the Government did not try to get any information on things on which it is considered that information from outside provinces is certainly valuable? Is the progress of tenancy legislation outside India important or unimportant.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar) : In every province the relation between the tenant and the landlord is not the same.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : From answer (b) am I to take it that the Government know that there is no committee in Punjab?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar) : Government are not aware.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Are the Government not distinctly aware where all landlord's rights have been purchased.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar) : We are not aware.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Will the Government be pleased to purchase some copies and place them in the library.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government) : We will do that.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam) : In (g) the Government says "no" as answer. Will the Hon'ble Member for Revenue be pleased to inform this House whether he gave such evidence. I was a member of that Committee. I distinctly remember that he made this proposal before the committee.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General) : I distinctly remember that he proposed that all the rights of the landlord might be purchased by the Government.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam) : Is it not a fact that a type-written copy of the speech before the committee was circulated among the members and this fact was mentioned in the type-written copy.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General) : Any way he made such a proposal. He suggested that the rights of the landlord might be purchased by the Government.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar) : There is a misunderstanding. He did say something in the Memorandum. He wanted that the rights of every pattadar should be purchased. That is contained in writing in the Memorandum.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : As a last question but not the least will the Government be pleased to inform the House whether they will collect information on this point?

Mr. President : It is rather difficult to get information from Germany.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Will the Hon'ble Advocate-General see that information as regards Punjab is obtained.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General) : I shall make my best endeavours.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Let us hope that reports from Germany also will be received soon.

CORRUPT PRACTICES IN ELECTIONS—SAFEGUARD FROM

18. Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Will Government be pleased to state whether they will make all efforts to safeguard elections from corruption?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar) : Necessary safeguards have been already made in the Government of Cochin Act and the rules issued thereunder.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Have the Government not received reports of gross corruption in the elections in the Cochin State?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar) : Wherever there have been complaints they have been enquired into.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Will the Government suo moto go into the matter of corruption making election offences cognisable offence?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General) : Election offences under Chapter VIII A are not cognisable offences.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters) : Is not false personation at elections a cognisable offence?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General): No. In Bombay false personation has been made a cognisable offence. In order to have the desired effect it has been laid down in the rules that if an agent at a polling booth questions the identity of a voter he will have to deposit Rs. 20 when the Polling Officer will get the address and signature of the voter for future action.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: കൃത്രിമം വല്ലതും ചെയ്തതായിട്ട് വല്ലതും ഗവണ്മെൻ്റ് റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്തതായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General): One case is under investigation.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അത് എന്താണെന്നു പറയാമോ?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General): That relates to an alleged false personation in the election conducted recently at Trichur.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഇപ്പോൾ തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ ഉള്ളതുകൂടാതെ വേറെ എത്രെങ്കിലും കേസ്സിൽ എലക്ഷനിൽ കൃത്രിമമായിട്ട് സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥിത്വം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയെന്നോ അതിന്മേൽ നടപടി നടത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നോ വല്ലതും റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്തതായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): I want notice.

TAXATION OF FOOD CROPS—DOING AWAY WITH

19. Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Will Government be pleased to state whether in view of the need for the encouragement of raising food crops, the Government will take away all taxation of food crops?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): Government regret it cannot be done.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER—NORTHERN DIVISION—JURISDICTION OVER NELLIAMPATHI AREA

20. Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) why it is that the Assistant Engineer, Northern Division, is given jurisdiction over the Nelliampathi area;

(b) whether it is not better for all concerned to put that area under the Trichur Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (Chief Engineer):

(a) There is no Assistant Engineer, Northern Division. The Assistant Engineer, Eastern Division, is in charge of the Nelliampathi area. He is in charge of the Talappalli and Chittur Taluks and Nelliampathies fall within Chittur Taluk.

(b) Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks are already heavy sections and the Assistant Engineer should not be loaded with extra work in a remote place.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Which is the headquarters of the Eastern Division Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (Chief Engineer): Vadakkancheri.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Are the Government aware that people in the Nelliampathies have to go to Vadakkancheri to see the Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (Chief Engineer): But the Assistant Engineer goes to Chittur, they can see him there. Again the work he has to do by seeing people is not so great. His main work is inspection of roads. It is not possible to ask the Assistant Engineer Central Division to look to the work of Chittur or the Nelliampathies because he is already heavily worked.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Could not the jurisdiction of the Central Division Assistant Engineer be brought under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Engineer Eastern Division?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (Chief Engineer): Nemmara is situated 30 miles from Trichur and if only the Assistant Engineer is appointed to look after Chittur also it will affect supervision. It will be very difficult also.

THOTTARA PUNCHA—STEPS TAKEN TO DRAIN

21. Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to drain the Thottara Puncha in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (Chief Engineer):

The question is under consideration of the Government.